

Lt. Governor John Garamendi Outlines Action Plan Addressing Critical Workforce, Higher Education Needs

San Diego - In an address to the 17th Annual South County Economic Summit today, Lt. Governor John Garamendi renewed his promise to transform the Lt. Governor's office into a powerful advocate for Californians, outlining a plan to boost the productivity of our state, the opportunity of our students and the success of our businesses through the State's higher education systems. The plan announced today keeps the Lt. Governor's inaugural pledge to invest in our state's colleges and universities, protect the environment and fight for universal health care.

"As a University of California Regent, a California State University Trustee, and the Chair of the Commission for Economic Development, I have a unique opportunity to better define the role these institutions play in our economy and to build consensus for a long-term strategic plan to boost the productivity of our state, the opportunity of our students and the success of our businesses."

To address the critical needs of California businesses and workers, Lt. Governor Garamendi today pledged to bring together business and labor leaders and California Community Colleges to address the critical need for career technical education.

To ensure the doors of higher education stay open to Californians of all economic backgrounds, Garamendi will partner with students, faculty and CSU leadership to build a groundswell of support for increased public investment in higher education. And to ensure that California's economy is strong over the long term, he will bring together leaders from the CSU, the UC and the California Commission for Economic Development to develop a workforce plan for the future - one that will meet the need of business, labor and students.

The higher education plans announced today by the Lt. Governor follows his successful efforts on priorities he outlined when taking office: including higher education, climate change and

healthcare. He has demanded transparency in compensation for UC and CSU executives and opposed steep tuition increases that shut the door on students. He led the State Lands Commission to reject the proposed LNG terminal off the Oxnard/Malibu coast, and has worked with the Governor's staff and legislators to ensure that California's health care system leaves not one person priced out of the care they need.

"I promised to restore the luster to this office, be a champion of the environment, be relentless in the battle to improve our kids' education, unyielding in the fight for healthcare for all; and zealous in promoting the creation of new, high wage jobs and protecting the rights of working families," Garamendi said today.

"I am proud to say that 264 days after taking office, working with the Governor and the leadership of this great state, I am well on the way to keeping my commitments to the state of California."

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2007

Contact: Mike Roth

Office: 916 / 445-8994